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THE PROMETHIUM EXCHANGE PART 2 OF 3

EXCALIBUR



WAGING WAR
WITH THE

AVENGERS
WEST COAST

50
YEARS



OF
CAPTAIN AMERICA

1941 - 1991

THE POWERFUL CAPTAIN BRITAIN, THE SHAPE-CHANGING MEGGAN, THE INTANGIBLE SHADOWCAT, THE SWASHBUCKLING NIGHTCRAWLER, THE MYSTERIOUS PHOENIX, THE EVER-UNPREDICTABLE WIDGET AND LOCKHEED THE DRAGON FORGED IN THE FIRES OF THEIR TRAGIC PASTS, THEY HAVE BANDED TOGETHER TO FIGHT A MODERN DAY CRUSADE AGAINST THE FORCES OF EVIL! **EXCALIBUR**

EXCALIBUR

THEY COMPRISE TWO OF EARTH'S MOST POWERFUL SUPER-TEAMS!

BUT WILL EVEN THE COMBINED STRENGTH OF EXCALIBUR AND AVENGERS WEST BE ENOUGH TO PROTECT THEIR WORLD...

FROM THE THREAT OF DR. DOOM -- HE WHO WIELDS THE SOULSWORLD?

SOMEWHERE IN ENGLAND... EXCALIBUR LEFT FOR MAGIK'S LIMBO OVER TEN MINUTES AGO. WAITING IS THE WORST PART.

RRRRUMBLE

BUT THIS SUDDEN OMINOUS RUMBLING RUNS A CLOSE SECOND!

CAPTAIN BRITAIN

IRON MAN

SHADOWCAT

WONDER MAN

NIGHTCRAWLER

TIGRA

PHOENIX

SCARLET WITCH

MEGGAN

QUICKSILVER

EXCALIBUR OF ENGLAND

AVENGERS OF THE WEST COAST

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EH? I'VE BEEN WORKING WITH
W.H.O.K. AND EXCALIBUR LONG
ENOUGH TO RECOGNIZE A
DIMENSIONAL GATEWAY!

I HAVE TO CONCEDE--
THIS HAS WAITING
BEAT, HANDS DOWN!

IN THE WEIRD HAPPENINGS ORGANIZATION --T.K.

AT THAT MOMENT, IN THE
OTHER-DIMENSIONAL
WORLD ONCE KNOWN
AS LIMBO...



MAYBE WE CAN
TALK THIS OUT
A BIT-- FIND
A WAY TO
BURY OUR
DIFFERENCES?

I SAY
THEE
"NAY!"

SHUNNE

AND I SAYS
"DOUBLE
NAY!"

WOP

MOMENTS AGO*, DR. DOOM BATTLED
EXCALIBUR FOR THE RIGHT TO STRIP-
MINE THIS DIMENSION OF THE
MAGICAL METAL KNOWN AS
PROMETHIUM.

DOOM TROUNCED
THEM.

SEVERELY.

THEN HIS
REINFORCEMENTS
ARRIVED...

*LAST ISSUE, OUR TIME --T.K.

THE ONLY
THING
WHAT WE
PLANS ON
BURYIN'--
--IS
YOUSE!

DOUFHNE



THE DEMON
HORDES OF
OTHERPLACE!

AND SO FALLS
CAPTAIN BRITAIN--
THE LAST MEMBER
OF EXCALIBUR!

HAVE YOUR LOYAL
SERVANTS PLEASED
YOU, LORD DOOM?

"PLEASED"
IS A BIT...
STRONG.

I DO, HOWEVER,
CONFESS TO
BEING INTRIGUED
BY THE FORMS
THE LOCAL DEMONS
HAVE CHOSEN.

TAKE THAT!
AND THAT!
AND THAT!
AND THAT!

AS ALWAYS, WE
REFLECT THE FEELS
AND THOUGHTS OF
THE WHO RULES
OUR DIMENSION.

STOMP
STOMP

STOMP



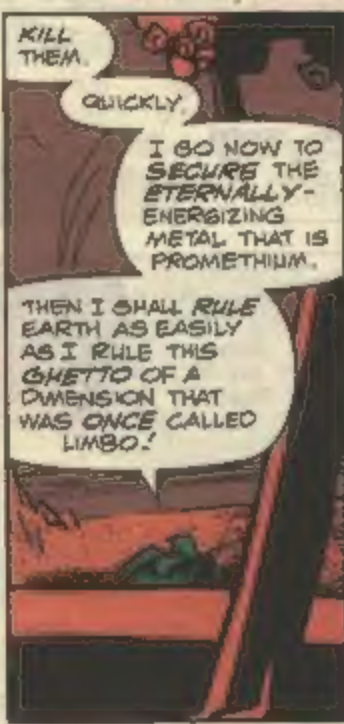
FOR THE
MOMENT
THAT IS
YOU

SHALL WE HAVE
THE HUMANS
TORTURED IN
YOUR HONOR?



THERE IS NO
HONOR IN
TORTURE,
DEMON.

THEY WERE NOBLE--
ALBEIT BRIEF--
ADVERSARIES.



KILL
THEM.

QUICKLY.

I GO NOW TO
SECURE THE
ETERNALLY-
ENERGIZING
METAL THAT IS
PROMETHIUM.

THEN I SHALL RULE
EARTH AS EASILY
AS I RULE THIS
GHETTO OF A
DIMENSION THAT
WAS ONCE CALLED
LIMBO!



IF ANYBODY WANTS
ME, I SHALL BE
IN THE CASTLE.



AT THAT
MOMENT,
ON EARTH...

THAT ANOMALY
IS GETTING
LARGER-- ITS
PHIL, STRONGER!

GOOD-BYE,
RACHEL...
WHEREVER
YOU ARE.

IT COULD
HAVE BEEN...



--MAGIC?

BEHOLD, AVENGERS OF THE WEST--
JUST AS I FORESPOKE! ALREADY
THE DESTRUCTION OF ENGLAND
HAS BEGUN!

IT'S NOT AS THOUGH
ANYONE DIDN'T BELIEVE
YOU, LADY OF THE
LAKE.

IT WAS THE
ONLY REASON
WE AGREED TO
TRAVEL HALF-
WAY AROUND THE
WORLD VIA YOUR
ELEMENTAL
WATER POWERS

I HATE
WATER!



AM I RIGHT
IN ASSUMING
YOU ARE AN
INNOCENT
BYSTANDER?

ACTUALLY, IT'S
BEEN YEARS
SINCE I'VE
BEEN
INNOCENT...



YOUR REPULSOR
RAYS ARE
USELESS, IRON
MAN--



--THIS PORTAL
ABSORBS ONLY
MASS!

SAY NO
MORE!
TIGRAT!

SEVERAL HUGE CHUNKS
OF THE GREATER ISLE
OF BRITAIN COMING
RIGHT UP, WONDER MAN.

WITH ANY LUCK WE'LL
BE ABLE TO OVER-
LOAD THE GATEWAY
WITH TOO MUCH
MASS AT ONE TIME!



AVENGERS MAKE
THEIR OWN LUCK, IRON
MAN... BETWEEN THE
LADY'S MAGIC AND
MY PROBABILITY-
ALTERING HEX-
SPHERE--



ALAS, I FEAR
THIS MAY ALL BE
FOR NAUGHT.

DEFINE
"NAUGHT"?

THIS IS BUT ONE OF
FIVE DIMENSIONAL
PORTALS SCATTERED
THROUGHOUT THE
EVERMYSTICAL
REALM OF ENGLAND.

--WE SHOULD
BE ABLE TO
CLOSE IT UP--

...FOR
NOW!

IN ORDER TO SECURE HIS BELOVED
PROMETHIUM, IT WILL BE NECESSARY
FOR DOOM TO COLLAPSE
OTHERPLACE IN UPON ITSELF.



SO, BECAUSE NATURE ABHORS
A VACUUM, THE ENTIRE COUNTRY
OF ENGLAND WILL BE PULLED
THROUGH THE PORTALS TO
FILL THE VOID OF THIS
OTHERPLACE--

--WHICH WE, IN OUR IGNORANCE,
FORMERLY REFERRED TO AS
MABIK'S LIMBO?

EXACTLY.

QUICKSILVER,
WHO'S YOUR
FRIEND?



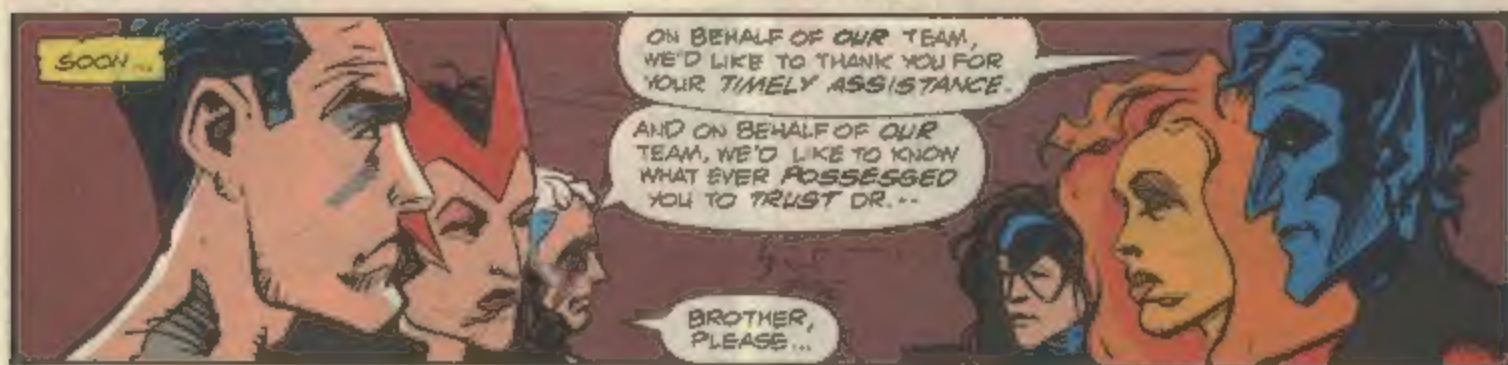
EXCUSE MY MANNERS, I'M
DR. ALASTAIR STEWART--
A CONFIDANT OF HER
MAJESTY'S GREATEST
SUPER-TEAM, EXCALIBUR.

THIS WOULD BE THE
SAME EXCALIBUR
THAT PROVIDED DOOM
WITH THE SOULSWORD?

YOU YANKS
NEVER MADE
A MISTAKE?

IF YOU'RE
PREPARED
TO DEPART...?









AH, THE SMELL OF
TESTOSTERONE
IN THE AIR!

AN ENTIRE DIMENSION
FULL OF DEMONS,
AND YOU TWO OPT
TO BLUG IT OUT
BETWEEN YOUR-
SELVES!

DOES SHE DO
THIS ALL
THE TIME?



THIS TEAM-UP WILL GO
A LOT SMOOTHER IF
YOU TWO STOP
POUNDING ON EACH
OTHER.



DREADFULLY SORRY
ABOUT THAT.

IT HAPPENS. THE FIRST
TIME I MET HERCULES,
WE WERE --

PUH-LEASE -- NOT
THE HERCULES
STORY AGAIN!

I'LL TELL
YOU LATER.

RIGHT-O,
MATE.

PHOENIX-- MY
MAGIC HAS
LOCATED EACH
OF THE FIVE
PORTALS. IF
YOU PROJECT MY
THOUGHTS INTO
THE MINDS OF
THE OTHERS...?

DONE



WE'LL SPLIT-UP
INTO TEAMS OF
TWO...

... ONE MEMBER
FROM EACH TEAM.
WE'LL DRAW ON
EXCALIBUR'S
EXPERIENCES HERE.

ONCE WE DESTROY
THE PORTALS, WE'LL
RENDEZVOUS AT
DOOM'S CASTLE.

ANY
QUESTIONS?



GO, MY
DAWNS.

GO AND DISRUPT
MY "MASTERS"
PLAN!

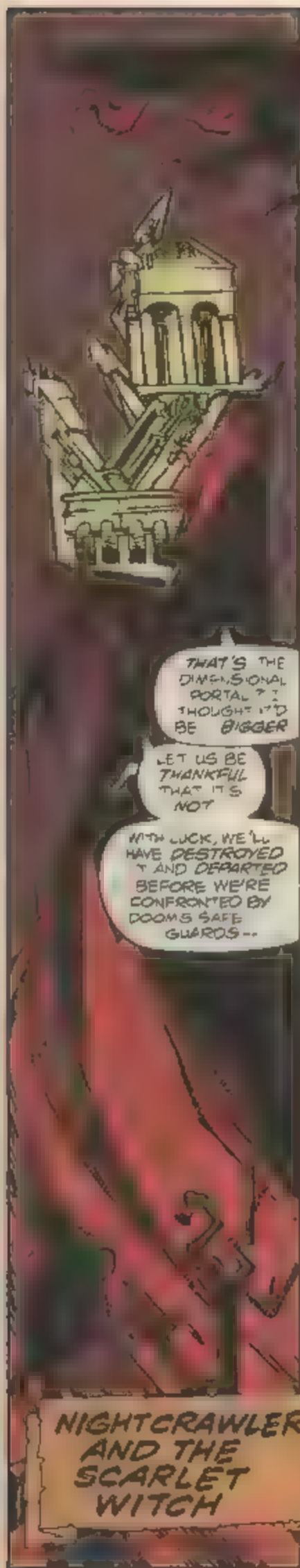


FOR ALTHOUGH IT
WILL MEAN THE
DEATHS OF ALL
WHO DWELL
WITHIN THIS DARK
DIMENSION...



IT IS SURELY THE
ONLY WAY I WILL
EVER KNOW
ETERNAL PEACE!



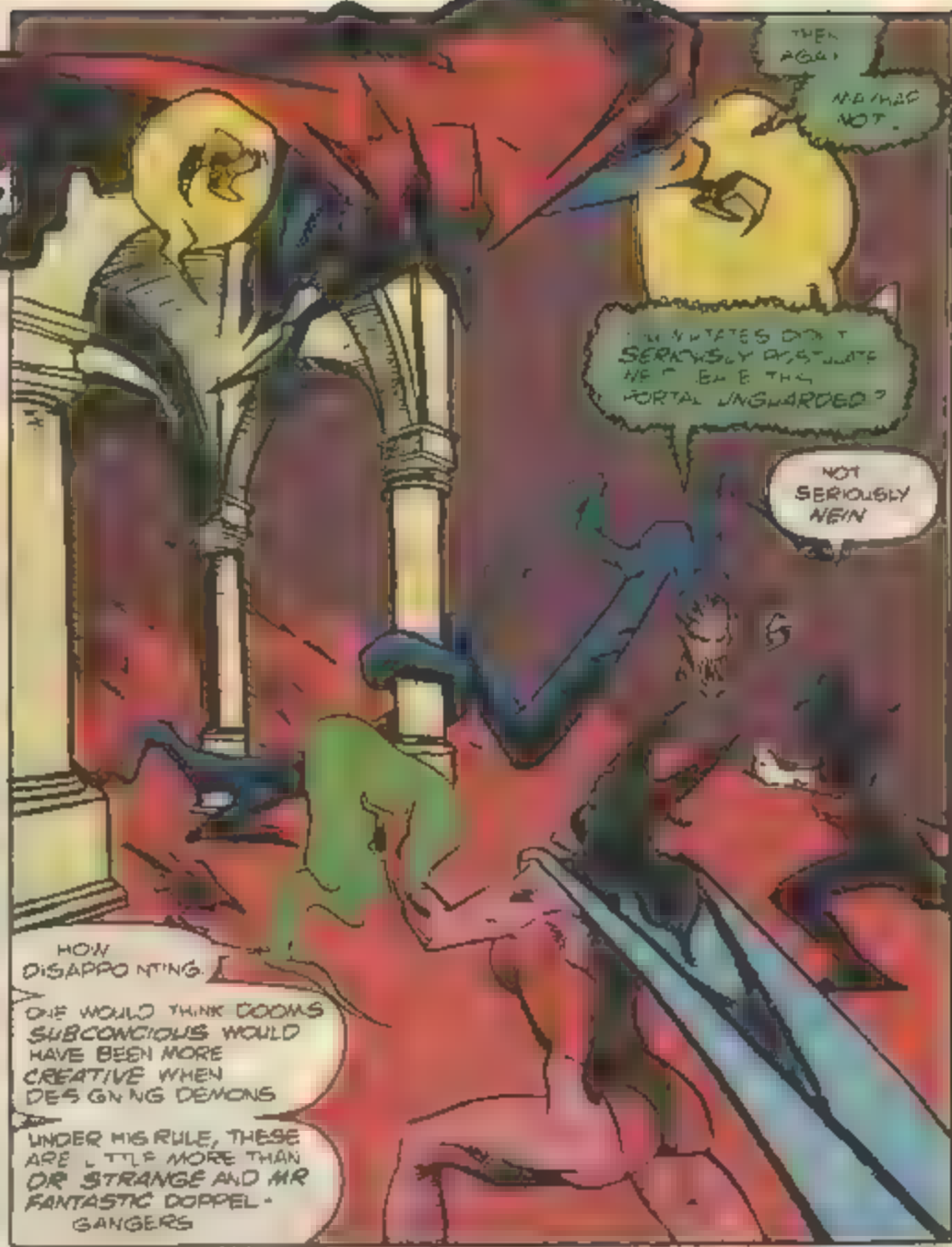


THAT'S THE
DIMENSIONAL
PORTAL? I
THOUGHT IT'D
BE BIGGER

LET US BE
THANKFUL
THAT IT'S
NOT

WITH LUCK, WE'LL
HAVE DESTROYED
IT AND DEPARTED
BEFORE WE'RE
CONFRONTED BY
DOOM'S SAFE
GUARDS--

NIGHTCRAWLER
AND THE
SCARLET
WITCH



HOW
DISAPPOINTING.

ONE WOULD THINK DOOM'S
SUBCONSCIOUS WOULD
HAVE BEEN MORE
CREATIVE WHEN
DESIGNING DEMONS

UNDER HIS RULE, THESE
ARE LITTLE MORE THAN
DR STRANGE AND MR
FANTASTIC DOPPEL-
GANGERS

THEN
AGAIN
NEIN
NOT.

WHY WOULD YOU
SERIOUSLY DISMISSE
ME? BECAUSE THE
MORTAL UNGUARDED?

NOT
SERIOUSLY
NEIN

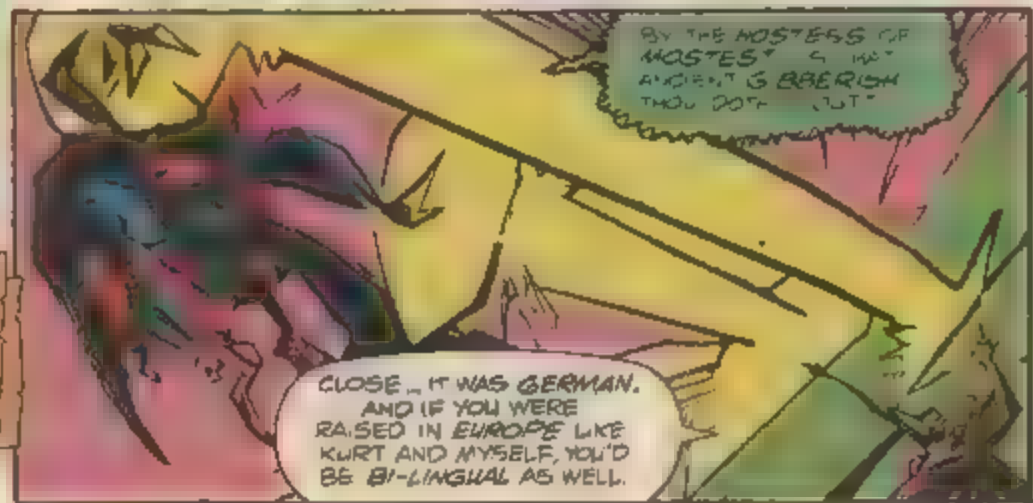
DOPPELGANGER?

SPRECHEN
SIE DEUTSCH.
FRAULEIN? *

JA WOHL,
NATÜRLICH,
MEIN HEIR **

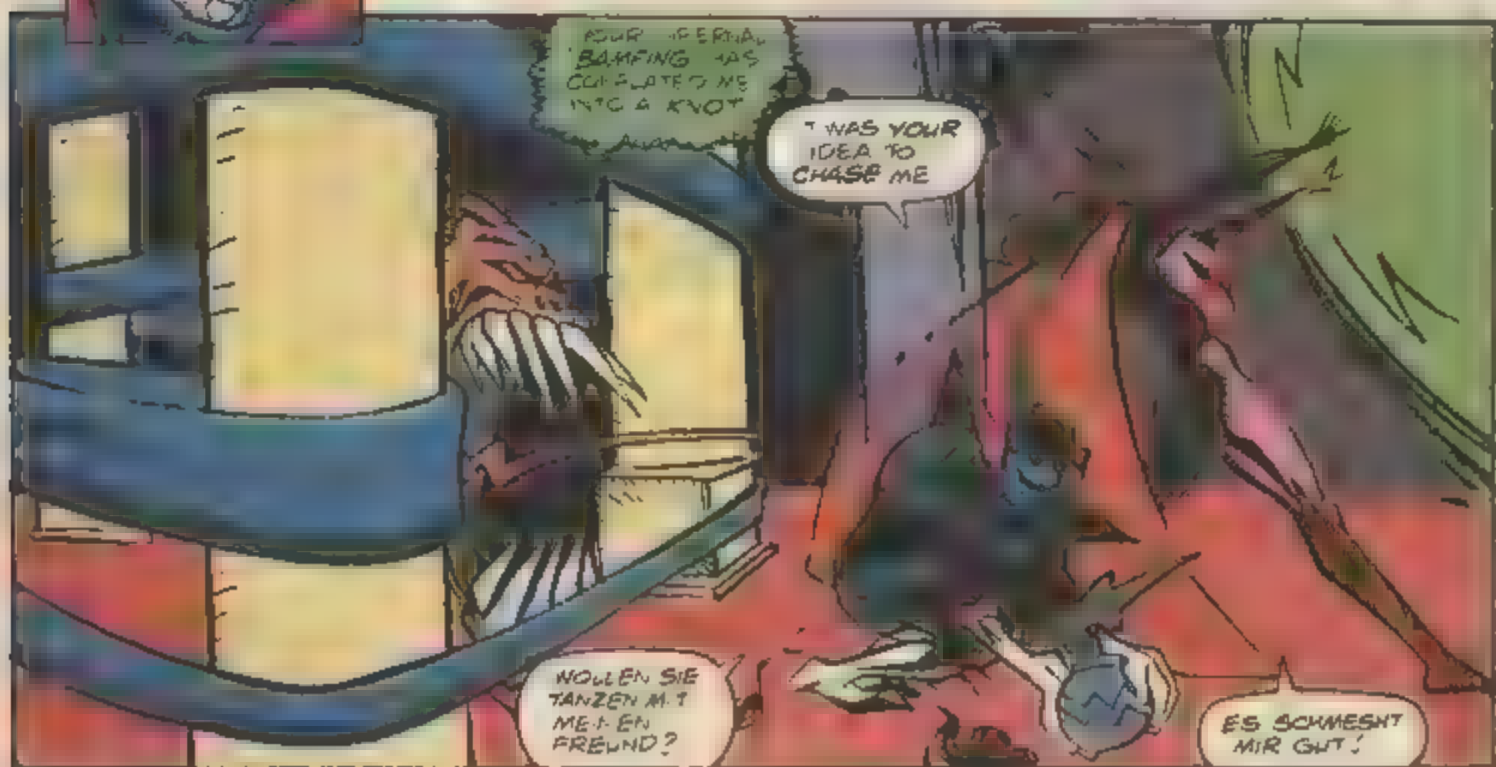
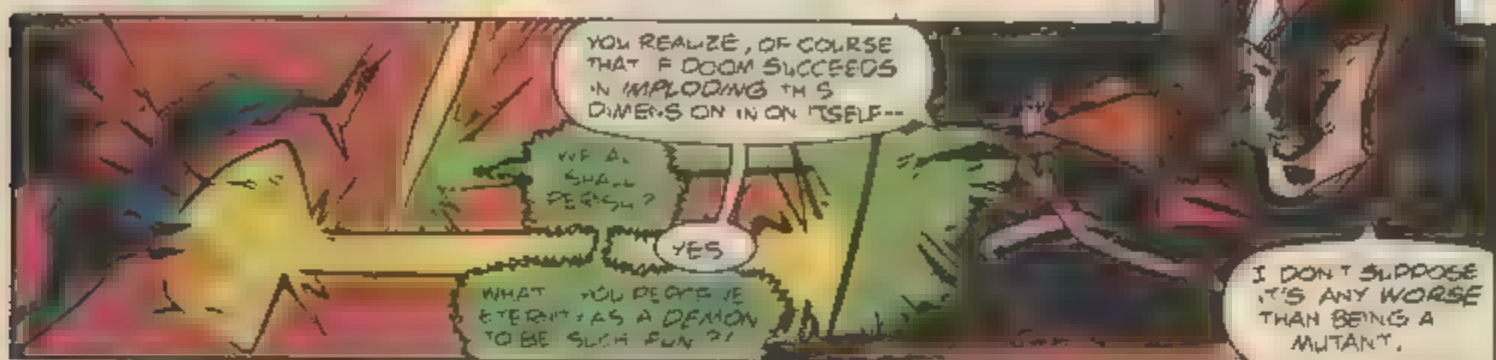
* YOU SPEAK GERMAN, MADAM?

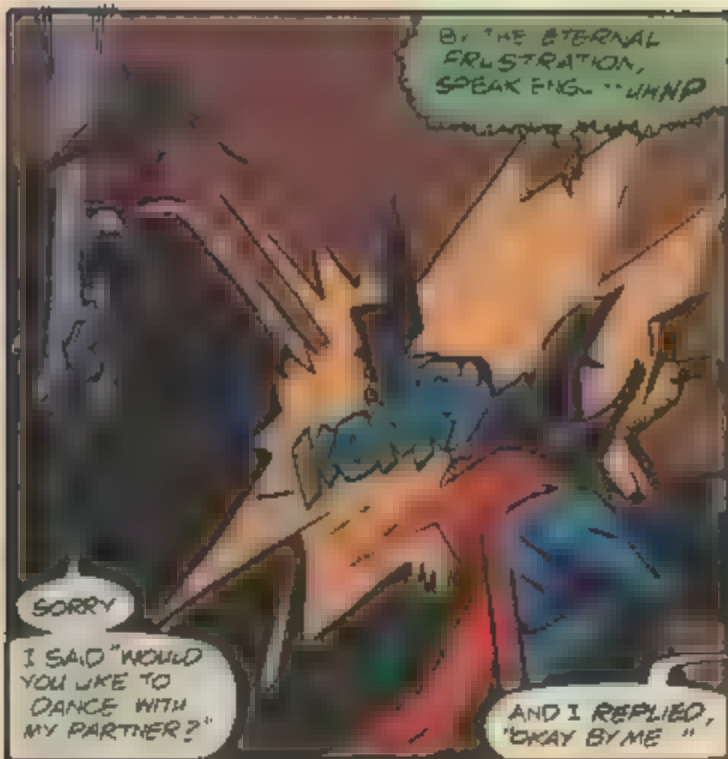
** YES, NATURALLY, SIR



BY THE HOSTESS OF
HOSTESS * G W
ANCIENT GERBERICH
THOU DOTH *UT

CLOSE... IT WAS GERMAN.
AND IF YOU WERE
RAISED IN EUROPE LIKE
KURT AND MYSELF, YOU'D
BE BI-LINGUAL AS WELL.





BY THE ETERNAL
FRUSTRATION,
SPEAK ENGLISH!!

SORRY

I SAID "WOULD
YOU LIKE TO
DANCE WITH
MY PARTNER?"

AND I REPLIED,
"OKAY BY ME"

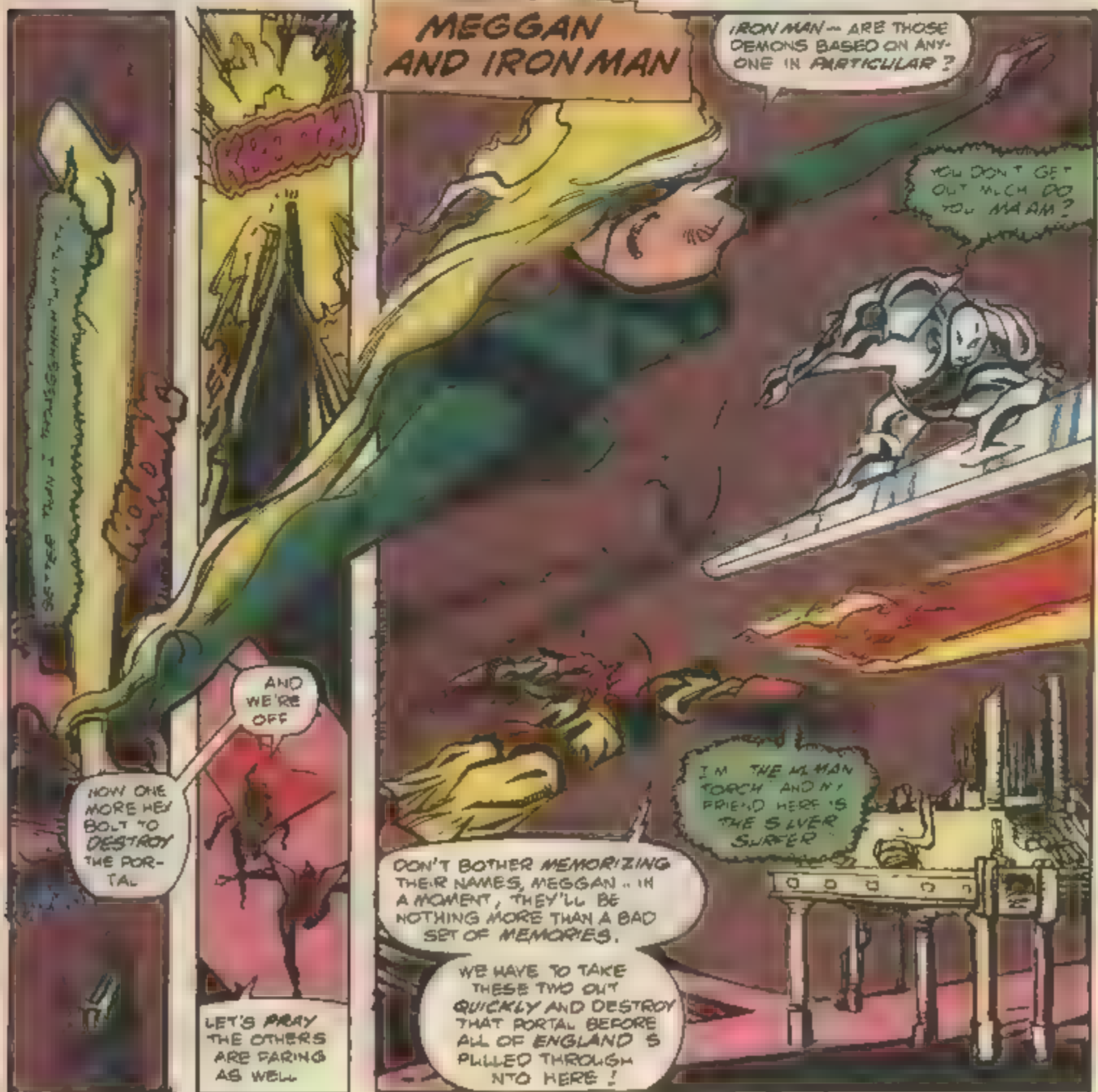


WHAT?!

IT'S CALLED
A HEX BOLT

IT CAUSES A ONE-
IN-A-MILLION
CHANCE TO ACTUALLY
HAPPEN

EXAMPLE, WHAT DO
YOU THINK THE ODDS
ARE THAT YOUR BODY
WOULD SNAP LIKE A
RUBBER BAND?



MEGGAN AND IRON MAN

IRON MAN -- ARE THOSE
DEMONS BASED ON ANY-
ONE IN PARTICULAR?

YOU DON'T GET
OUT MUCH DO
YOU MAAM?

AND
WE'RE
OFF

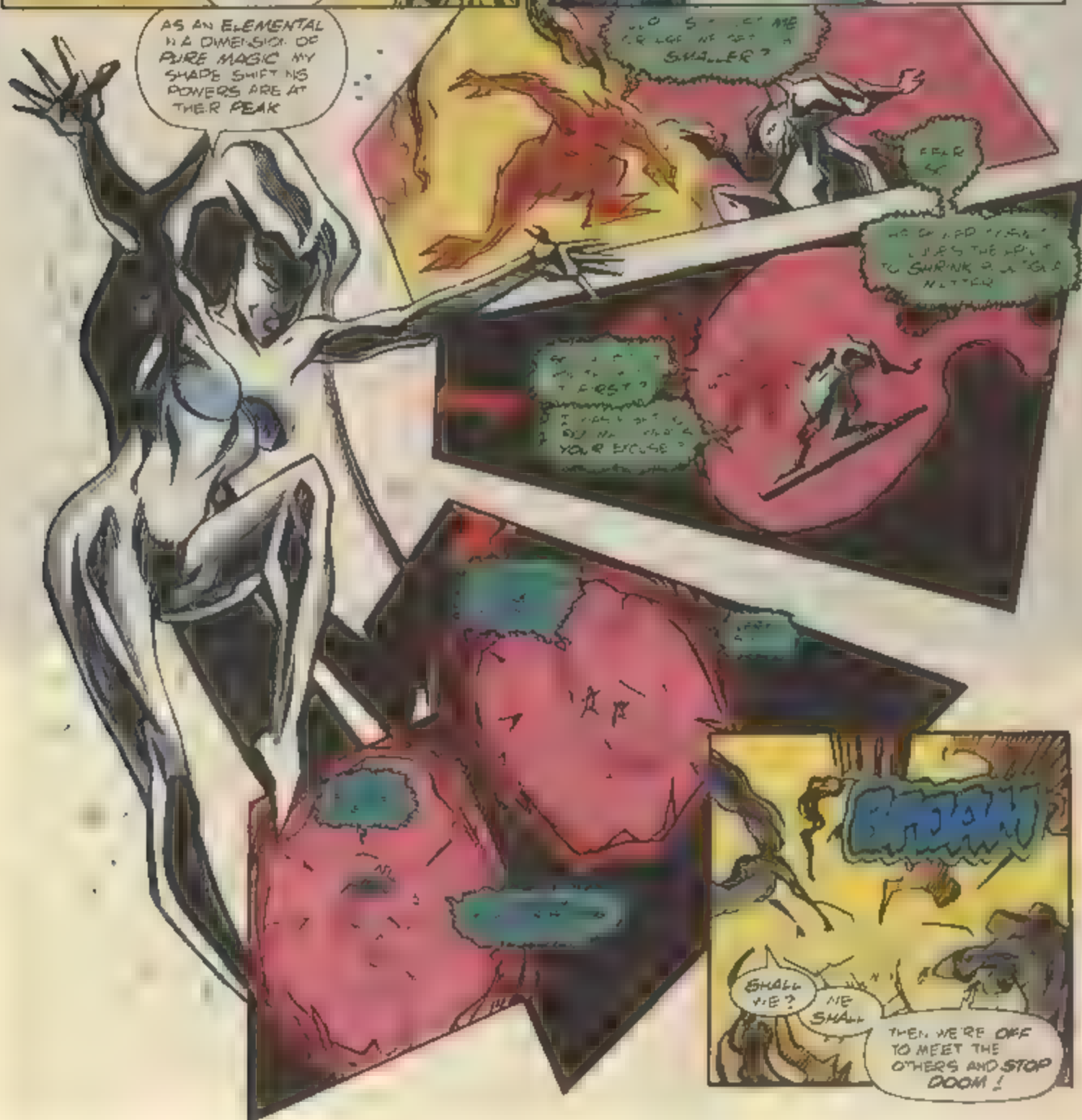
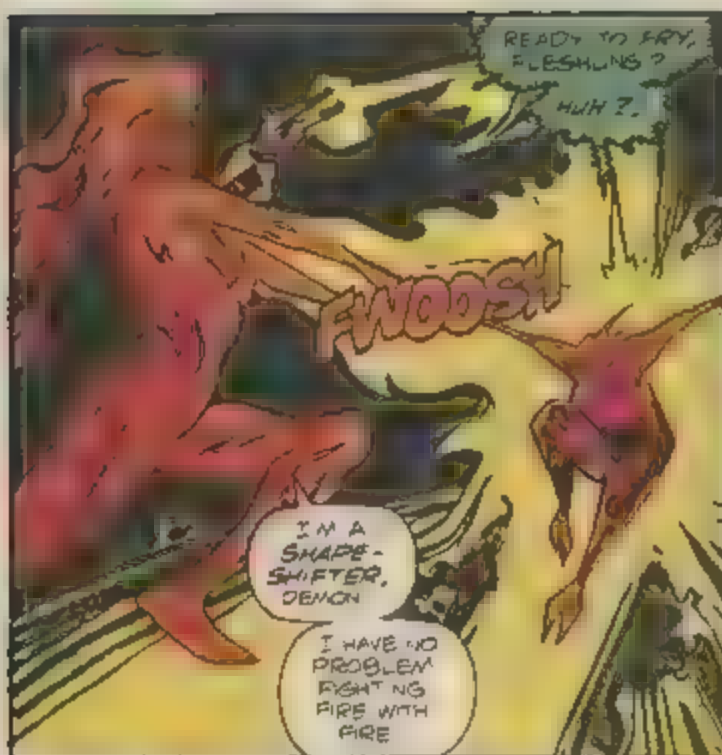
NOW ONE
MORE HEX
BOLT TO
DESTROY
THE POR-
TAL

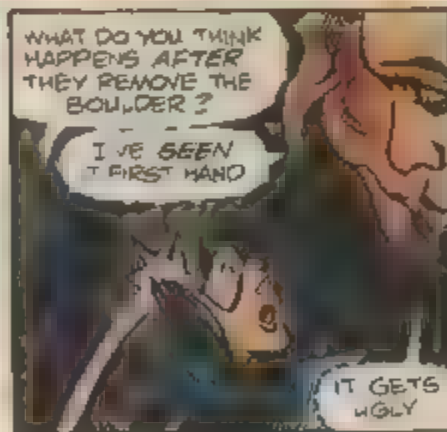
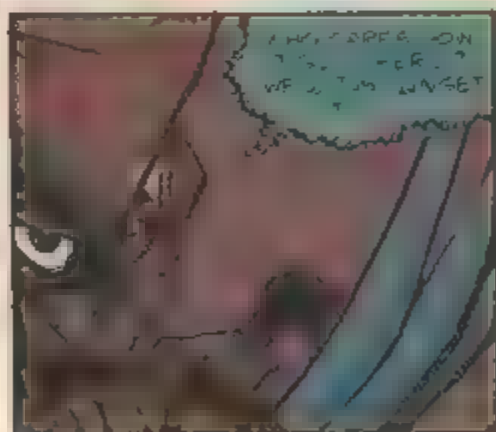
LET'S PRAY
THE OTHERS
ARE FARING
AS WELL

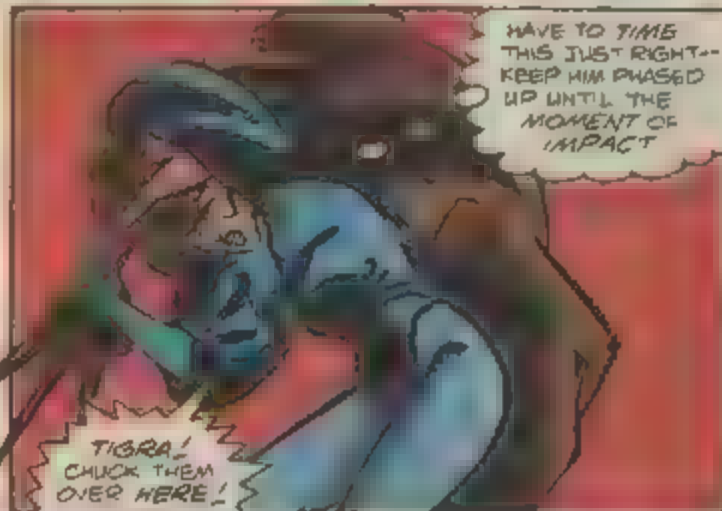
DON'T BOTHER MEMORIZING
THEIR NAMES, MEGGAN.. IN
A MOMENT, THEY'LL BE
NOTHING MORE THAN A BAD
SET OF MEMORIES.

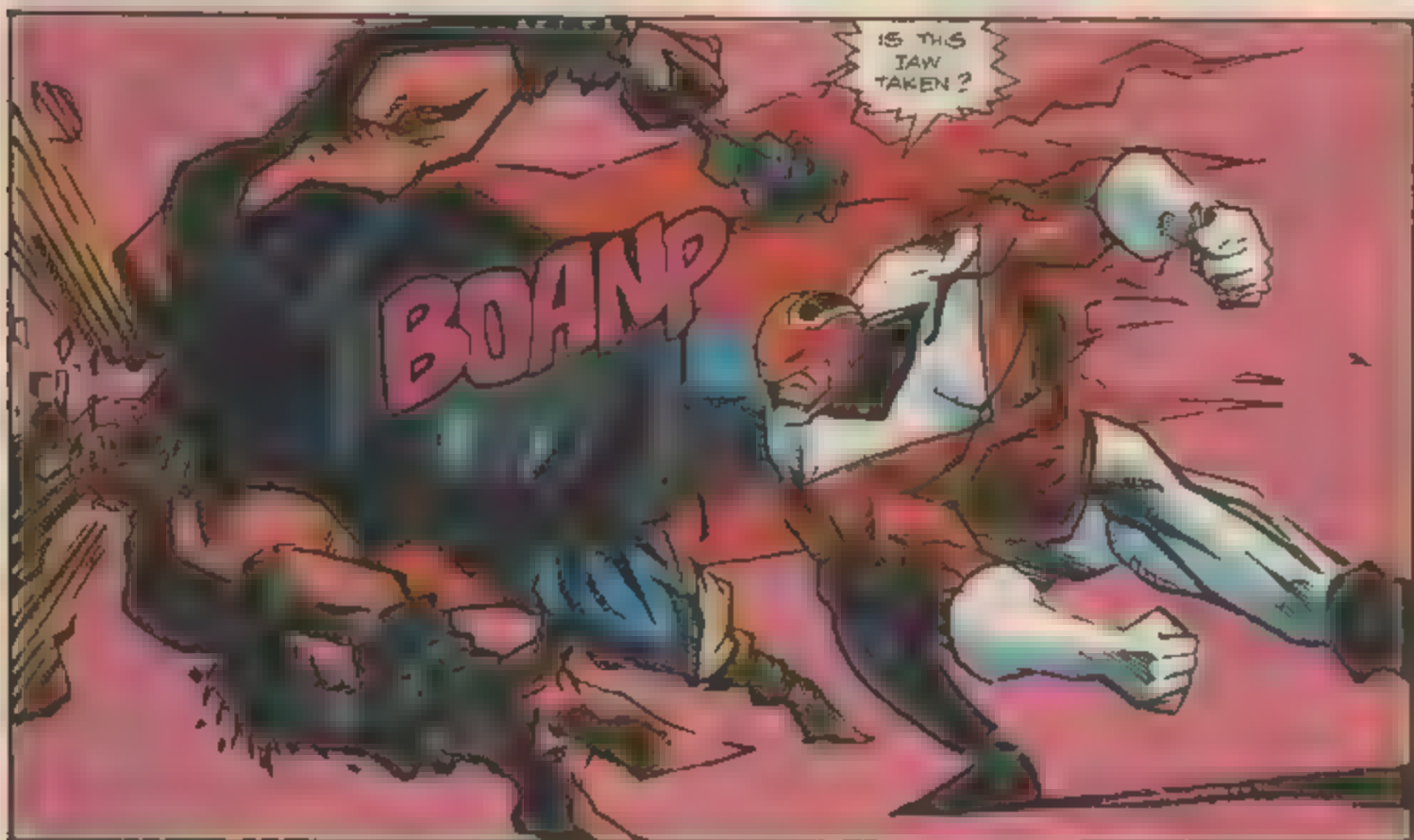
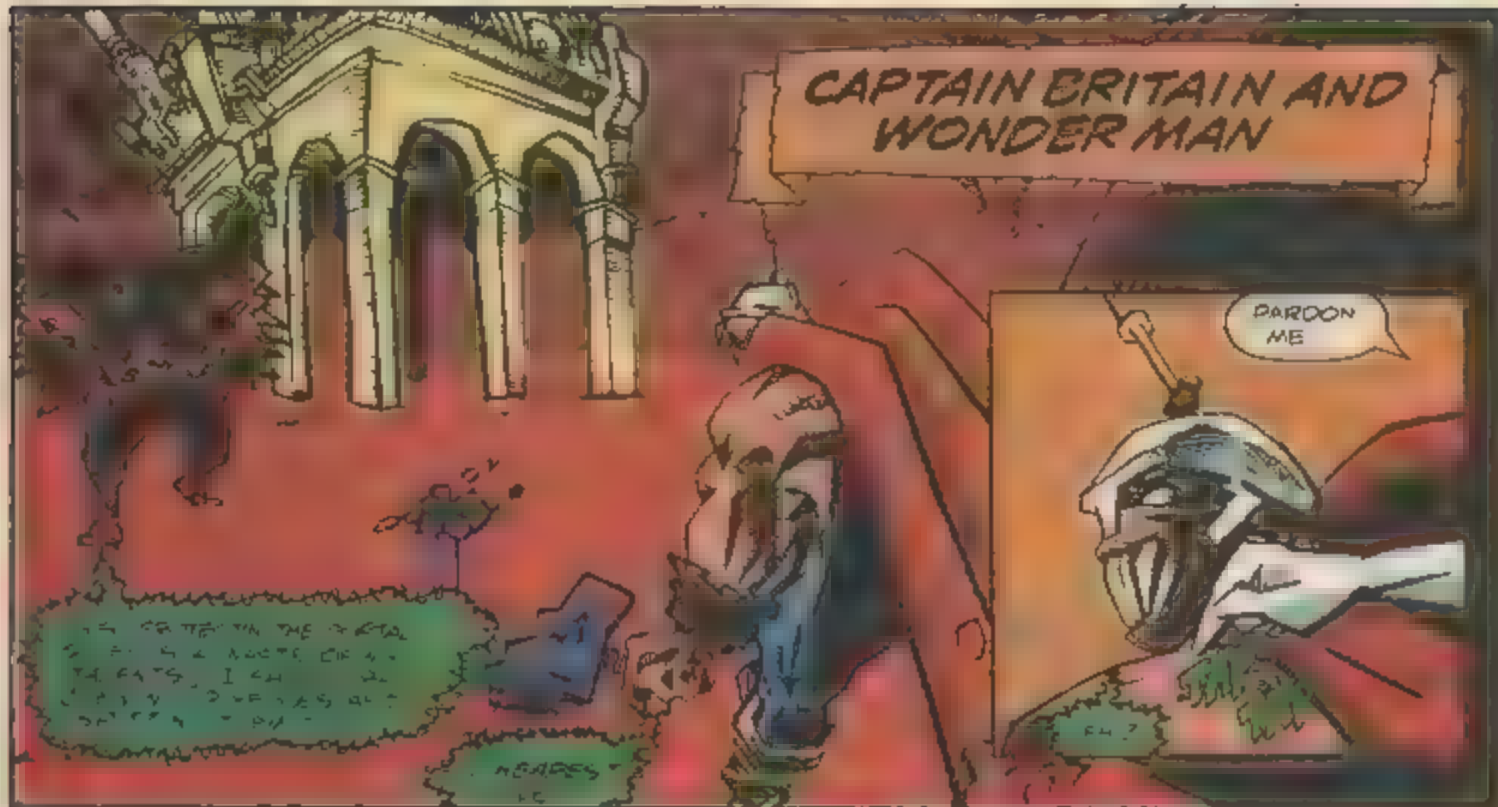
WE HAVE TO TAKE
THESE TWO OUT
QUICKLY AND DESTROY
THAT PORTAL BEFORE
ALL OF ENGLAND IS
PULLED THROUGH
INTO HERE!

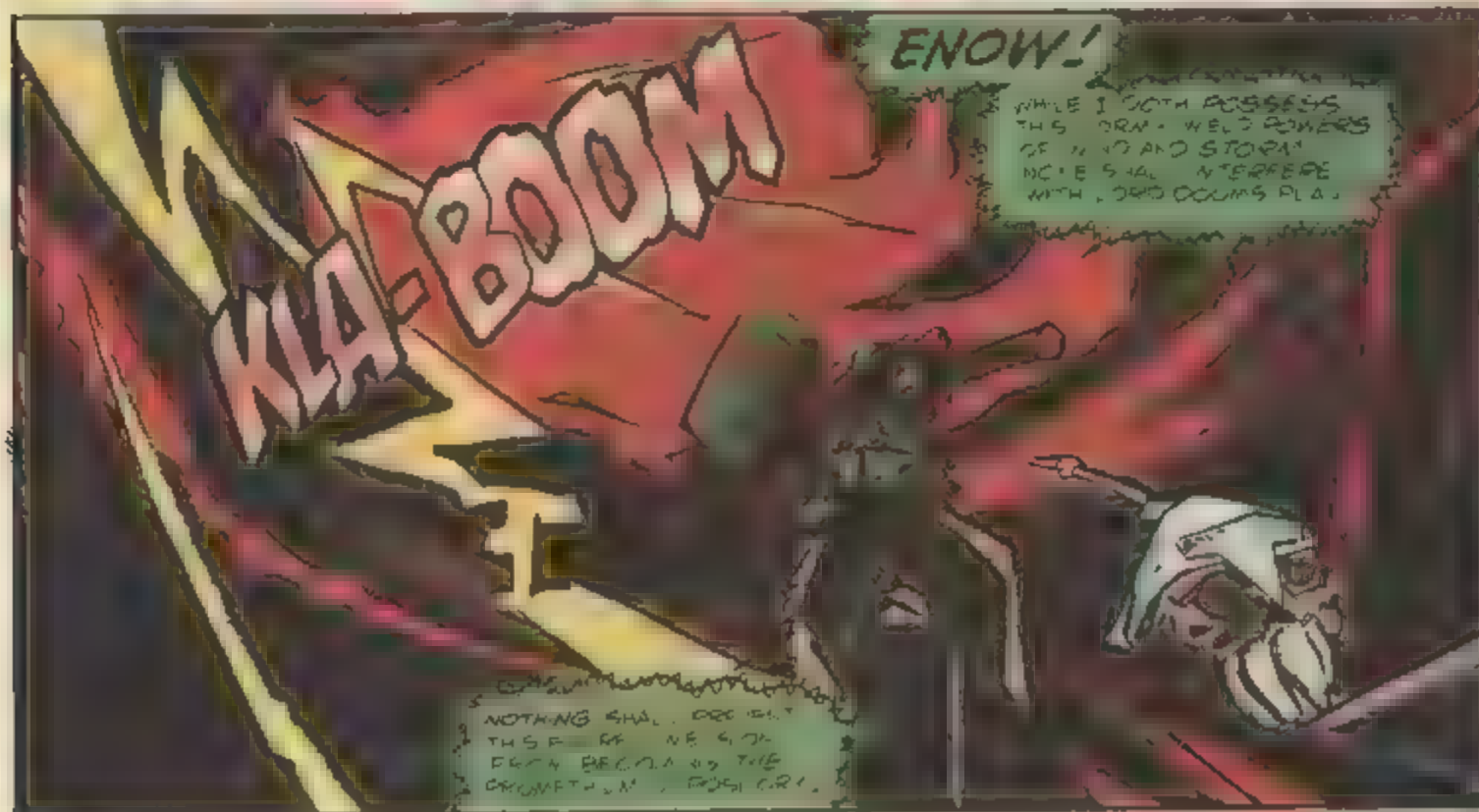
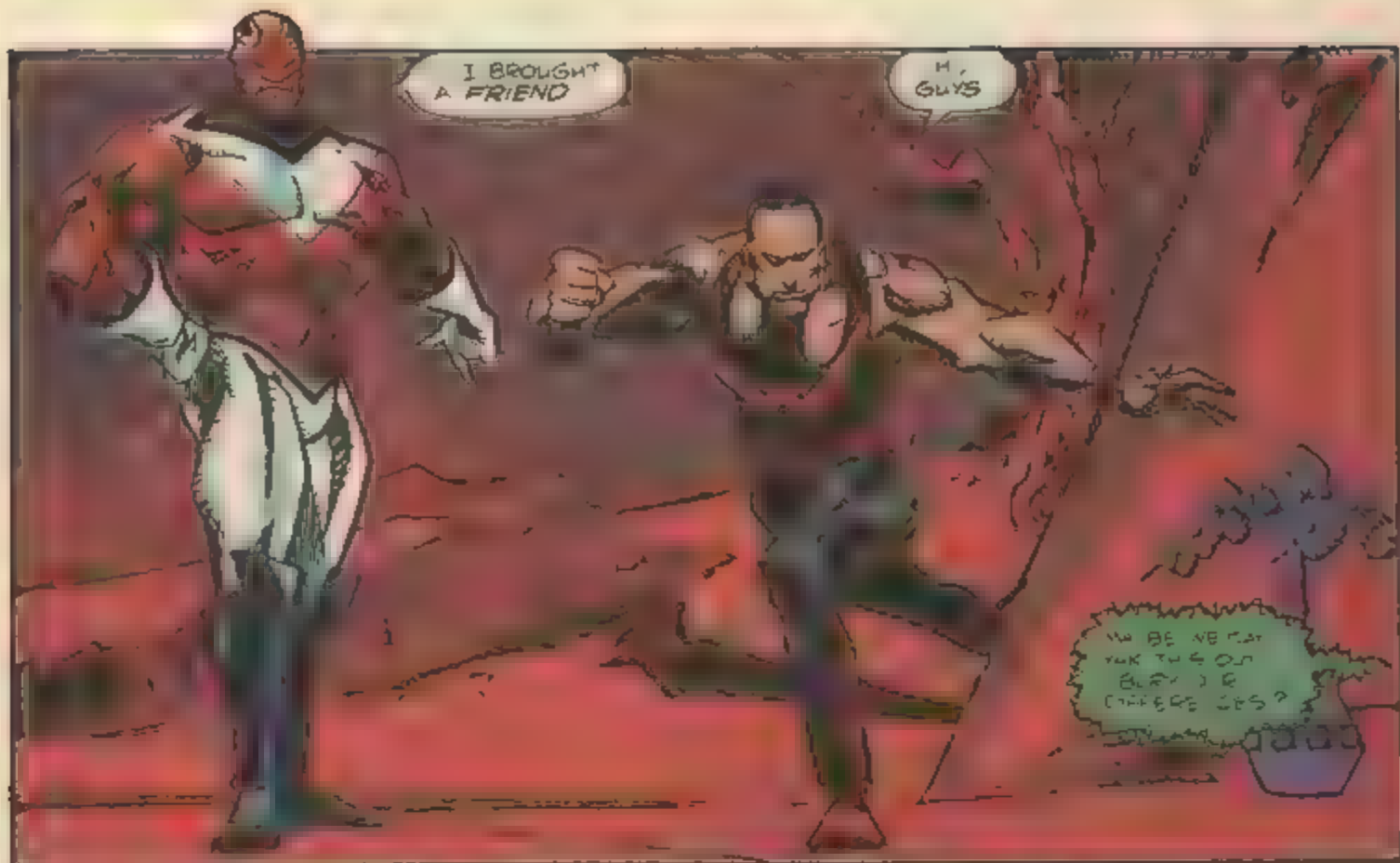
I'M THE IRON
TORNCH AND MY
FRIEND HERE IS
THE SILVER
SURFER











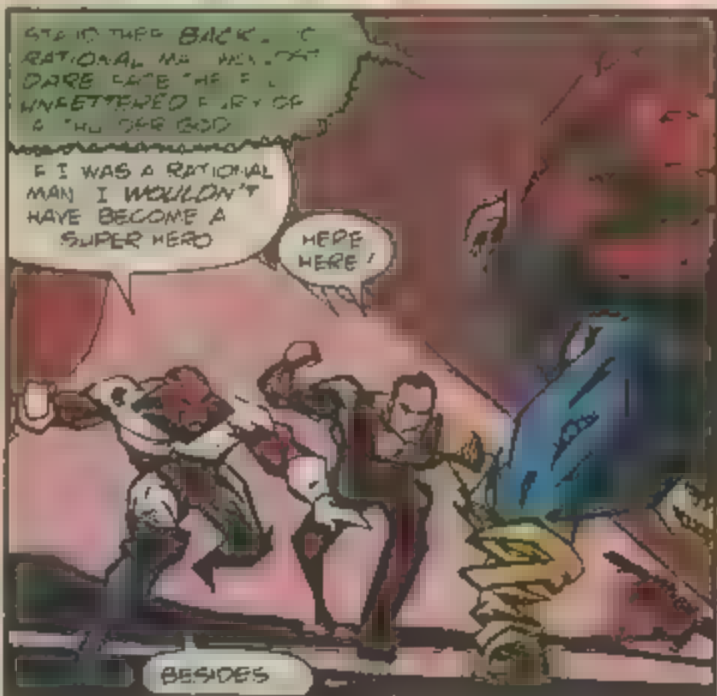


NOTHING.



I DON'T NOT
BELIEVE IT

A BOLT OF LIGHT-
NING DOESN'T HAVE
MUCH EFFECT ON A
GUY WITH MY IONIC
BODY

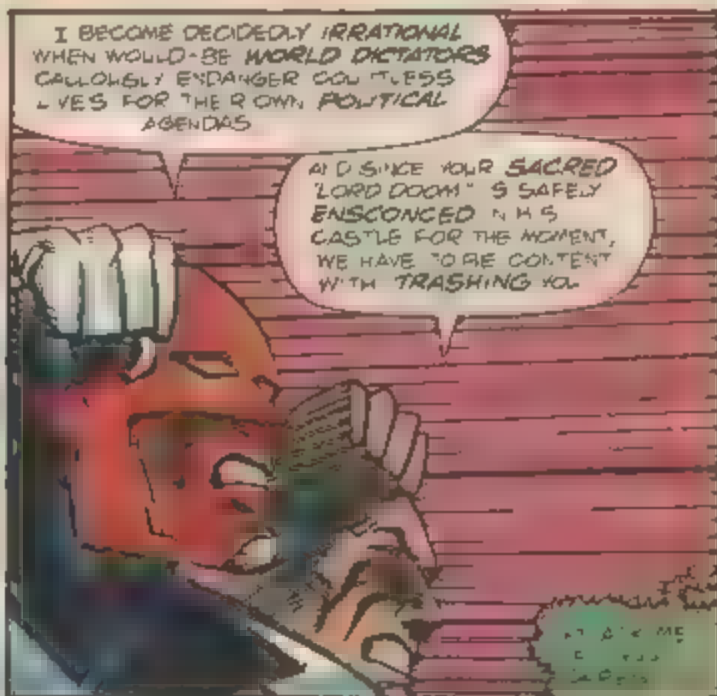


STAYING BACK. I
RATIONAL MAN WHO
DARE FACE THE
UNFETTERED FURY OF
A "HUGO" GOD

IF I WAS A RATIONAL
MAN I WOULDN'T
HAVE BECOME A
SUPER HERO

HERE
HERE!

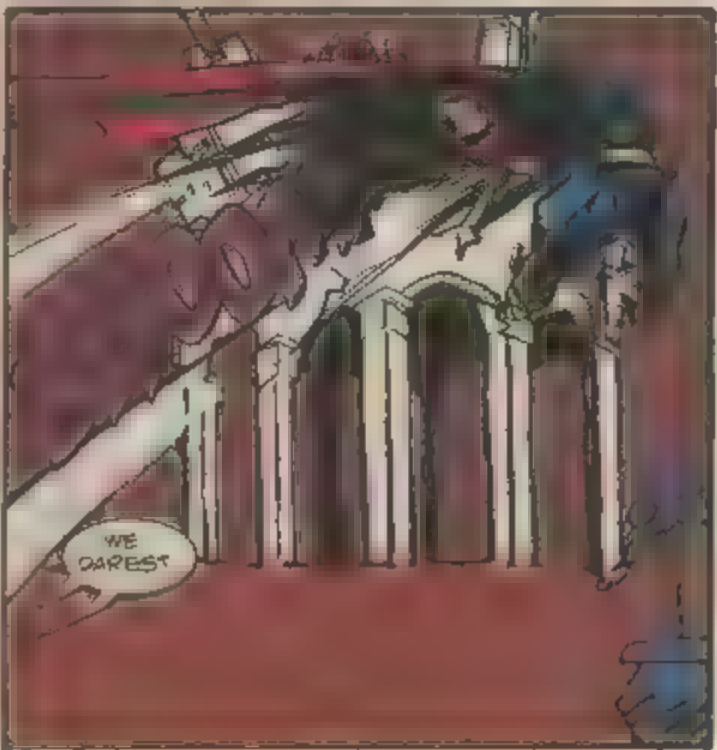
BESIDES



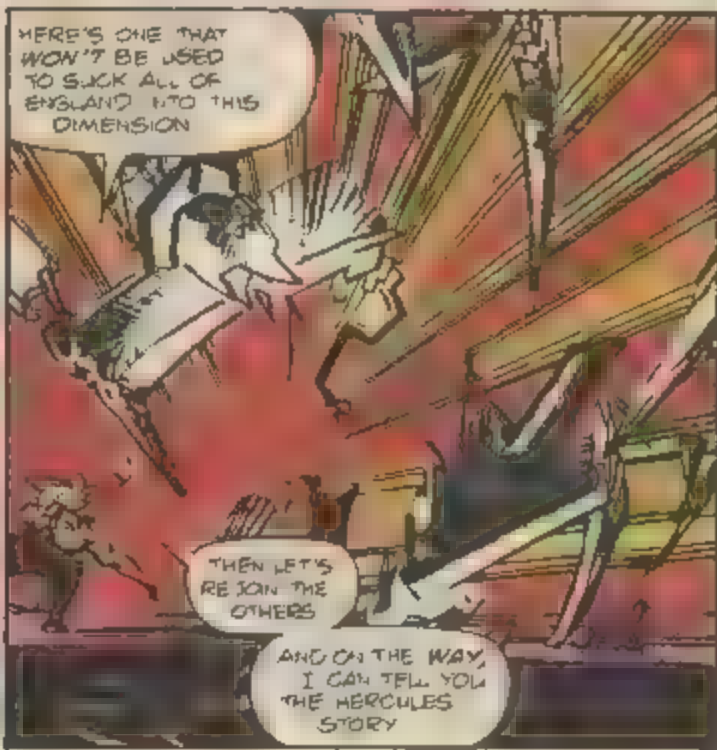
I BECAME DECIDEDLY IRRATIONAL
WHEN WOULD-BE WORLD DICTATORS
CALLOUSLY ENDANGER COLLECTIVE
LIVES FOR THEIR OWN POLITICAL
AGENDAS

AND SINCE YOUR SACRED
"LORD DOOM" IS SAFELY
ENSCENCED IN HIS
CASTLE FOR THE MOMENT,
WE HAVE TO BE CONTENT
WITH TRASHING YOU

AT A GLANCE
IT'S A
LARGE



WE
DAREST



HERE'S ONE THAT
WOON'T BE USED
TO SUCK ALL OF
ENGLAND INTO THIS
DIMENSION

THEN LET'S
REJOIN THE
OTHERS

AND ON THE WAY,
I CAN TELL YOU
THE HERCULES
STORY

PHOENIX AND QUICKSILVER

I THINK WE
LUCKED OUT,
QUICKSILVER...

SPARRING
WITH THE TWO
LAMEST
DEMONS IN
THIS DIMENSION

SO IT
WOULD
APPEAR...

THAT WAS SIMPLE
ENOUGH. ALL I HAD
TO DO WAS USE MY
PSI-POWER TO
MAKE HIM THINK HE
WAS ZAPPING ME...

WHEN HE WAS
ACTUALLY FRYING
THE BRAIN OF HIS
FELLOW DEMON.

AS SIMPLICITY
IS THE ORDER
OF THE DAY--

A PROFESSOR
X WHO
POSSESSES
MORE MASS
THAN MIND--

--AND AN
"INVISIBLE"
WOMAN WHO
IS TRANSLUCENT
AT BEST

I WILL DISPATCH
THIS DEMON
WITH ALL DUE
HASTE

WE COULD
HAVE PHONED
THIS BATTLE

THOUGH I
WONDER WHAT
AT&T WOULD
CHARGE--



--FOR THE DESTRUCTION
OF A DIMENSIONAL
GATEWAY?

SHE IS
ALIVE.



I DO NOT DOUBT
THAT THE REST
OF EXCALIBUR
ARE AS WELL.

NO
MATTER

BY THE TIME THEY
ARRIVE HERE AT
THE CASTLE, I
WILL HAVE
DESTROYED THIS
DIMENSION.

BUT I AM
CURIOUS,
DEMON...

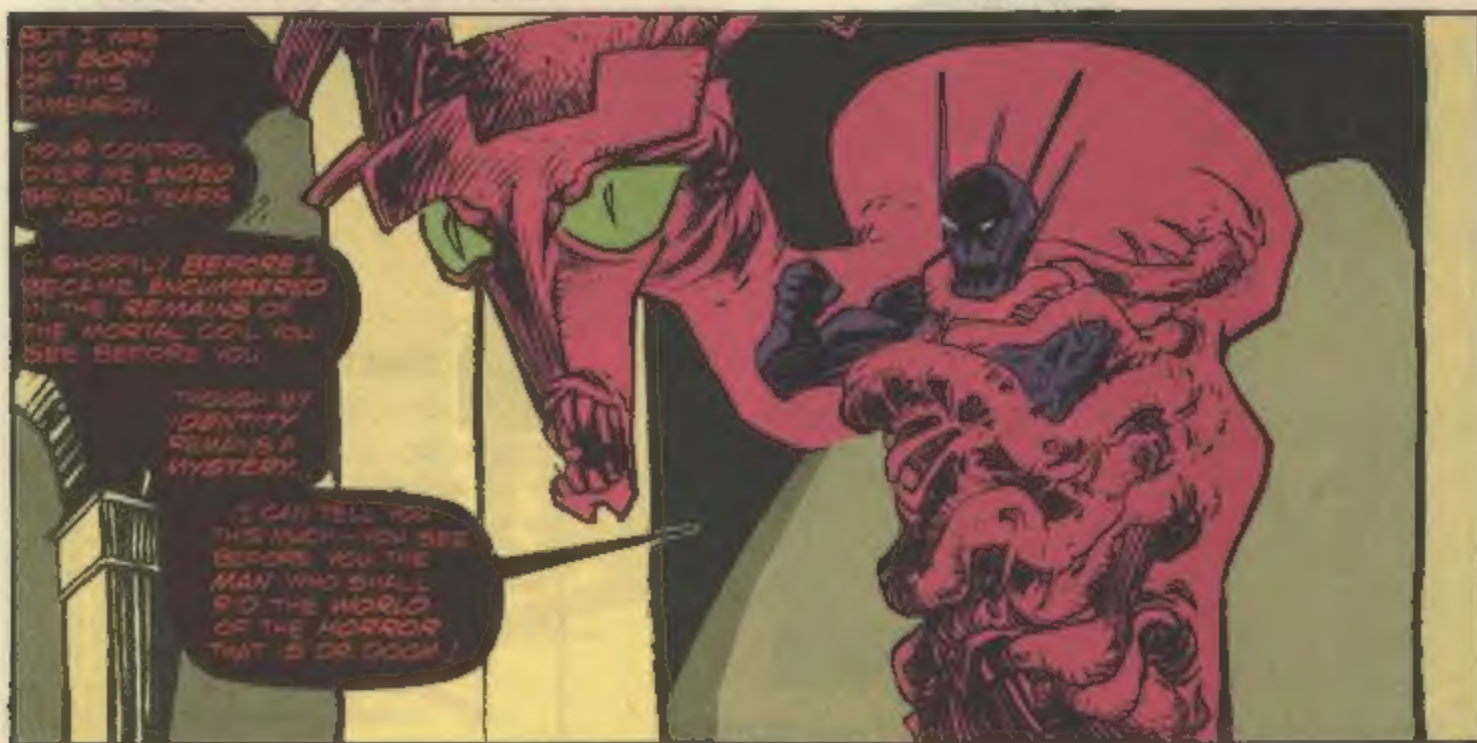


HOW YOU MANAGED
TO LIE TO ME.

UNLIKE BELASCO,
OR THE CHILD NAMED
MAGIK*, MY WILL
IS SUPREME OVER
EVERY DEMON WHO
DWELLS HEREIN.

EVEN THE DEMON-LORD
NAMED S'YRI-- HE WHO
RAIDED THE SEVEN
HOLDINGS BEFORE YOUR
ARRIVAL-- HAS NOT
THE STRENGTH TO
OPPOSE YOU.

*FORMER RULERS OF LIMBO-TL



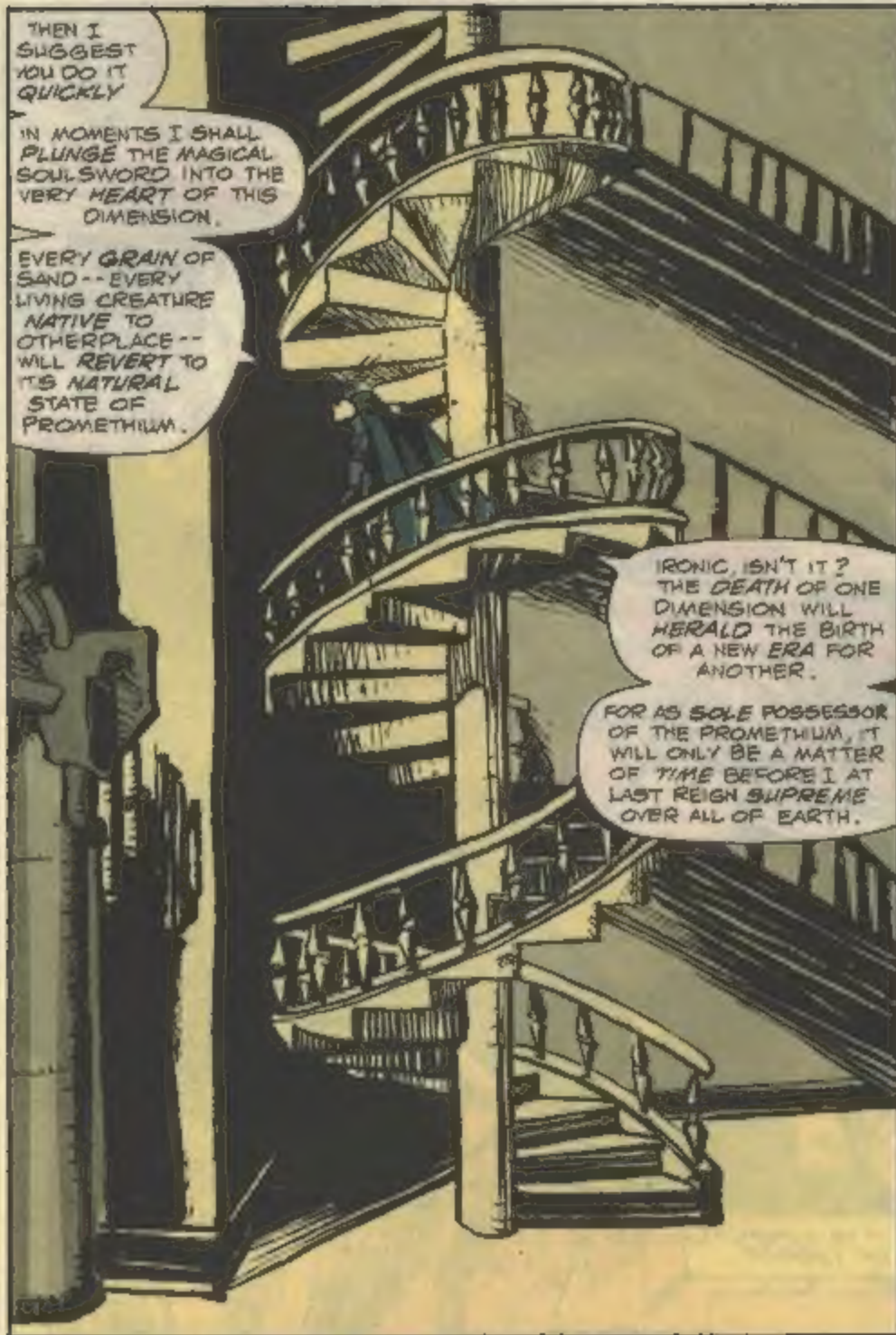
BUT I WAS
NOT BORN
OF THIS
DIMENSION.

YOUR CONTROL
OVER ME ENDED
SEVERAL YEARS
AGO.

SHORTLY BEFORE I
BECAME ENGLISHED
IN THE REMAINS OF
THE MORTAL COIL YOU
SEE BEFORE YOU.

THOUGH MY
IDENTITY
REMAINS A
MYSTERY.

I CAN TELL YOU
THIS MUCH--YOU SEE
BEFORE YOU THE
MAN WHO SHALL
RID THE WORLD
OF THE HORROR
THAT IS DR. DOOM!



THEN I
SUGGEST
YOU DO IT
QUICKLY

IN MOMENTS I SHALL
PLUNGE THE MAGICAL
SOULSWORD INTO THE
VERY HEART OF THIS
DIMENSION.

EVERY GRAIN OF
SAND--EVERY
LIVING CREATURE
NATIVE TO
OTHERPLACE--
WILL REVERT TO
ITS NATURAL
STATE OF
PROMETHIUM.

IRONIC, ISN'T IT?
THE DEATH OF ONE
DIMENSION WILL
HERALD THE BIRTH
OF A NEW ERA FOR
ANOTHER.

FOR AS SOLE POSSESSOR
OF THE PROMETHIUM, IT
WILL ONLY BE A MATTER
OF TIME BEFORE I AT
LAST REIGN SUPREME
OVER ALL OF EARTH.



THERE IS MUCH
I DARE, DEMON--

...OF WHICH TURNING
MY BACK ON YOU IS
THE LEAST.



YOU THOUGHT
PERHAPS
I WAS...
EXAGGERATING?

SKBA-BA-BLAM

IT'S OVER,
DOOM...

--THE
JIG
IS UP!

ON THE
CONTRARY...

IT IS A MOMENT
OF TERROR...

...AS A HANDFUL OF THE
WORLD'S MIGHTIEST
HEROES--

--REALIZE THEY ARE
TOO LATE!

...THE "JIG" HAS
ONLY JUST BEGUN!

CONCLUDES
NEXT ISSUE

Attention correspondents: if you don't want your full address printed, please be sure to tell us so!

...NO-PRIZE NEWSFLASH...

Now hear this, loyal Marveloids! With the dawn of a new decade, we've decided to revamp and update our policy on the awarding of those nifty no-prizes you hear mention of in many a Marvel mag. Henceforth, no-prizes will be awarded for one thing and one thing only — meritorious service to Marvel above and beyond the call of duty. What constitutes "meritorious service"? Lots of things could! Like sending a box of comics to the children's wing of a hospital. Or compiling a chronological cross-title index to a character's appearances. Or coming up with an explanation for a major discontinuity or discrepancy. Your imagination's the limit. So if you think spotting a misspelled word or a miscolored boot is worth a no-prize, you're living in the wrong decade! This policy is in effect for all Marvel titles whose editors award no-prizes.

Dear *Sword Strokes*,

I just received EXCALIBUR #32 and would like to say, "Welcome back, Chris!" It has indeed been a while since we have seen Mr. Claremont in the pilot's chair on this book.

I have been a devoted fan of EXCALIBUR from day one and I admit that lately I have worried about its future. Since the end of the "Cross-Time Caper" the book has largely lacked direction. The artistry has, on occasion, been such as to make it difficult to recognize the characters. And the issues have, for too long now, been too independent of each other and lacked continuity.

I think (and hope) that this is changing. The last couple of issues have captured some of the magic that of late the book has lacked. Issue #32 gives hope that the stories will again start to link up together.

I have been a fan of Mr. Claremont's writing since I read my first X-MEN and hope that he will be giving more attention to EXCALIBUR again. It is a book with a lot of potential and I hope that it is not denied it. I started reading the book for three reasons: Nightcrawler, Kitty and Chris (not necessarily in that order). Later I found that I loved all the characters and that Chris had developed a team of heroes with a somewhat light-hearted way of dealing with evil. Besides that, he gave them problems that are all too common: Brian's drinking, Meggan's indecision about Brian and Kurt, and many others which make the characters as believable as Mr. Jones down the street.

So until Kurt changes his code name to "Fuzzy Elf," Make Mine Marvel!

Chad B. Hale
2061 Irish Rd.
Dundee, MI 48131

Dear People at EXCALIBUR,

I have been reading EXCALIBUR since the beginning of the series way back in EXCALIBUR Special Edition #1 where they faced The Technet for the first time and decided to band together. I continued buying the series because I saw great potential in it.

It has reached its 32nd issue and I have liked most of the stories I've read, but this issue's story wasn't too much to my liking. We open with yet another version of Excalibur shown in battle against some Nazis in London with four of its members being just teenagers that need to be chastised by their leader, a musclebound woman in a Captain Britain suit (which I hated to see). This later is seen to be the dream product of the Prime Minister's mind, and we see Mesmero behind it for reasons I think we'll see in the next few issues.

I think I like the idea of Kitty attending school in England, but I think a "ladies" school will prove to be tough to handle, and will lack in providing some other things in which Kitty needs to be educated. Does Courtney have some ulterior motive for wanting Kitty to stay there?

Sometime back I saw a version of Opal Luna Saturnyne take Courtney Ross's place. Is she still doing so? With what purpose, might I ask? Also, I'd like to see Excalibur defeat Jamie Braddock for once.

See you around!

Way West
Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico

Seems lots of you out there would like the Courtney Ross/Opal Luna Saturnyne identity issue cleared up! So, Wey, Courtney Ross and Opal Luna Saturnyne are one and the same... sort of.

Dear *Sword Strokes*,

I love "Girl's School From Heck!" I know from experience that it's tough to fit into a new high school and if you're an American in a British school, it'd be much worse. Add to it that this school is the equivalent of a reform school for upper class girls, and it'd be really tough! I think you've come up with a wonderful cast of supporting characters (especially Huntsman and Miss Rutherford) who are just what you'd expect to find there. It ap-

pears Kitty was right when she said that within a term she'd be running things, since the other girls are adopting her plan to save the school. Of course, I'm sure none of your readers ever doubted for a minute who was going to end up in charge. I can't wait to see the "Cheerleading Squad From Heck."

While I certainly want Kitty out of there and back with Excalibur, I hope you don't completely drop St. Searle's. It'd be nice to see if or some of the girls from there show up in the future.

I really liked you showing Kitty practicing her martial arts skills. I don't think you've shown her using them enough when battling villains. Anyone trained by Wolverine and Ogun, who can materialize the instant before striking and then become immaterial the instant after, would be formidable in a fight.

By the way, when is Excalibur going to learn that the X-Men are still alive? It must be impossible for them not to have heard since the situation in Genosha must be making the international news in most countries. I expect there'll be some real celebrating in Excalibur when they learn, considering the strong ties between the two teams!

I'm sure you must have to begin planning an issue months before it sees print, so I trust if you haven't already started on EXCALIBUR #50, you soon will. Please make it a collector's item (I collect them all and the other mutant books anyway).

Now to return to some old themes of mine from previous letters. Make Kitty pick up the SoulSword! Have her take over leadership of Excalibur over the next two or three years!

Brock Hoagland
S + T TrCI #100 RR3
Hazen, ND 58545

Well, Brock, hope the current SoulSword story is just what you ordered!

Now on to the question everyone wants to know the answer to! Okay—Phoenix knows that the X-Men are alive. But she hasn't been herself lately, and when Alan Davis returns to the book, you'll find out why!

Relax, though, for over the next few issues you'll see Excalibur and the X-Men reunited... sort of. But watch out! The reactions, especially Kitty's, may not be what you expect!

Comics Buyer's Guide Fan Awards for 1990

Welcome to the CBG Fan Awards. *Comics Buyer's Guide*, a weekly newspaper devoted to the world of comic books, sponsors these awards to let you, the readers, tell the world which comic books are your favorites. Just fill out the ballot and send it to the address below.

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Name _____ Age _____ How I received this ballot _____
Street or Box _____ City, State, and ZIP _____
Please type or print clearly. You need not cut out this page in order to mail. Copies are acceptable and will be counted.

We think that every team who puts together EXCALIBUR works magic, Chad! Glad to hear you enjoy Chris's stories and characters, though!